

3. The remaining spoil material (that material in excess of that needed for the Alafia Bank) could be placed on spoil island 3D.
 - A. No spoil should be placed during the shorebird nesting season, which is April 1 to September 1.
 - B. Vegetative encroachment on spoil disposal island 3D should be managed to provide barren nest sites. Techniques such as prescribed burning, tilling, and raking are acceptable control methods, and should be completed outside the nesting season. It is envisioned that when vegetation becomes dense and relatively high, it will need to be controlled probably every three years.
4. The Conservation Recommendations that were listed in our Biological Opinion for the endangered West Indian manatee should be made part of the Feasibility Study.

X. SUMMARY

The Corps has requested a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report from the Service regarding the environmental impacts of widening and deepening the existing Big Bend Channel as well as explore for beneficial uses of the resultant spoil material. Channel dredging will have minimal adverse impact on fish and wildlife resources, as long as the Conservation Recommendations to protect the manatee are implemented and spoil placement is carefully planned.

The Services preferred use of the spoil material to benefit fish and wildlife resources would be to place it on the Alafia Bank to alleviate erosion. The next preferred area to place the spoil would be to fill the two deep dredge holes found at Whiskey Key. Spoil placement at spoil island 3D would serve to raise the dikes of the island allowing additional storage of dredged spoil which would temporarily alleviate the need to build additional large spoil disposal islands in Tampa Bay. Our aforementioned management plan to protect the nesting shorebirds would have to be implemented if the spoil island 3D disposal site is selected. Spoiling on any of the four upland disposal sites would have no adverse effects on fish and wildlife resources.

The Service is opposed to the open water disposal site located south of Big Bend Channel because of its adverse impact on the shallow water benthic community, including one-half acre of seagrassbeds. Placement of spoil in this area will also disrupt local water circulation patterns. Therefore, we recommend that this disposal area be deleted from consideration in the Feasibility Study.

XI. Literature Cited

- Comp, G.S. 1977. An assessment of the impact of thermal discharge on fish and macroinvertebrate communities at Big Bend, Tampa (Florida). In R. D. Garrity, S. Mahadevan and W. Tiffany (eds.) Tampa Electric Company- a 316 demonstration, final report on the Big Bend thermal and ecological surveys. Prepared by Conservation Consultants, Inc. 93 pp.
- Dunstan, F.M. and R.R. Lewis III. 1974. Avian utilization and plant succession on dredged material islands in Tampa Bay, Florida. Contract report of Coastal Zone Resources Corp., Wilmington, NC. 73 pp.
- Ogden, J.C. 1978. Recent population trends of colonial wading birds on the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains. Pp. 137-153 in A. Sprunt IV, J.C. Ogden and S. Winkler (eds.), Wading Birds. Nat. Audubon Soc. Res. Rept. No. 7.
- Springer, V. G. and K. D. Woodburn. 1960. An ecological study of the fishes of the Tampa Bay area. Fl. State Bd. Cons. Mar. Lab. Prof. Pap. Ser.1. 104 pp.



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



MRS. GILBERT W. HUMPHREY
Miccosukee

JOE MARLIN HILLIARD
Clewiston

J. BEN ROWE
Gainesville

JULIE K. MORRIS
Sarasota

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
Miami

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
WILLIAM C. SUMNER, Assistant Executive Director

January 11, 1994

RECEIVED
JAN 18 1994
BD

FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(904) 488-1960
TDD (904) 488-9542

Mr. Dave Ferrell
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2676
Vero Beach, Florida 32961-2676

RE: Hillsborough County, Draft
Fish and Wildlife Coordination
Act Report on Tampa Harbor-Big
Bend Navigation Feasibility
Study, October 1993

Dear Mr. Ferrell:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has reviewed the proposed revised report on the referenced project, and concurs with your findings and recommendations as specified in the report.

Please call me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Hartman
Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JWB3/lav
ENV 1-5-2
bigbendt.fws
cc: Colonel Terrence C. Salt
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0012



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

November 4, 1993

BB
RECEIVED
NOV 10 1993

Mr. David L. Ferrell
United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 2676
Vero Beach, Florida 3261-2676

Dear Mr. Ferrell:

This responds to your October 12, 1993 request for concurrence and comments regarding the October 1993 Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the Tampa Harbor-Big Bend Channel Navigation Feasibility Study. The existing channel is approximately 2.2 miles long, 35 feet deep and 200 feet wide and connects a multi-owner industrial port complex with the Hillsborough Bay Ship Channel. The proposal is to widen the channel 50 feet and deepen it 2-3 feet.

The proposed project would not impact submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and depths in the project area depths are approximately -15 feet mean low water. In view of this, we agree that impacts, resulting from the dredging, to living marine resources (LMR) are expected to be minimal and temporary.

Placement of the dredge material could be beneficial, adverse or immaterial to LMRs. Beneficial uses of the material could include providing adequate elevation and creating emergent marsh for protection of the Alafia Bank or by filling the deep borrow pits (that historically experience low dissolved oxygen) near Whiskey Key. We strongly agree that no open water disposal should occur south of the Big Bend Channel due to the presence of SAV and shallow water habitat. However, we believe that use of Disposal Island 3D, thereby reducing its overall capacity, should not be considered if upland disposal sites are available. Upland disposal would not affect LMRs.

In view of the above, the National Marine Fisheries Service recommends the following:

- 1) That upland disposal have higher priority than Disposal Island 3D on disposal site ranking list in Section VII; and,
- 2) That filling of the borrow sites near Whiskey Key and use of upland disposal sites be recommended instead of Disposal Island 3D in Section IX.



If you have any questions regarding these comments, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. David N. Dale at 813/893-3503.

Sincerely,



✍ Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Director
Habitat Conservation Division

CC:
F/SEO2
F/SEO23-St PETE



National Audubon Society

TAMPA BAY SANCTUARIES
410 WARE BLVD., SUITE 500, TAMPA, FL 33619 (813) 623-6826

September 23, 1993

Mr. David Ferrell, Field Supervisor
Office of Ecological Services
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 2676
Vero Beach, FL 32961

RECEIVED

SEP 27 1993

PE

Subject: Need for dredge material additions at Alafia Bank

Dear Mr. Ferrell:

We are the stewards of several important bird colonies in the Tampa Bay region. The most important of these occurs on a pair of dredge material islands in Hillsborough Bay known as the Alafia Bank. In 1993, an estimated 10,000 breeding pairs of 22 species nested at this site, including nine state-listed Species of Special Concern (Brown Pelican, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Black Skimmer, and American Oystercatcher). In addition, 75 pairs of Caspian Terns nested here, the only known breeding site for this species in Florida. None of these species is currently federally listed, although the Brown Pelican was formerly classified as Endangered and the Reddish Egret is currently a "Category 2" species.

By several measures, the Alafia Bank is one of the outstanding bird colonies in the nation. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recently ranked it as the most important colony in the state. In most years, it is one of the largest half-dozen or so colonies in the eastern U. S., and formerly (1940s-1950s) considered to be the largest colony in the country. With 17-22 species nesting annually since at least 1980, it is the most diverse colony in the nation.

The islands occur on the south side of the Alafia ship channel just outside the mouth of the Alafia River, and were created by

sidecasting of dredge spoils during channel construction in the late 1920s. The western end of the island chain has always been subject to chronic erosion. One of the islands, "Sunken Island", eroded away by the 1950s and was rebuilt during channel deepening in 1960. To counter continuing erosion, clean sand dredged during the Tampa Harbor Deepening Project was placed at the western end of Sunken Island in a fishhook configuration in November 1977. A planting project inside the new cove resulted in the rapid development of a solid mangrove stand, and within 7 years of planting, herons and ibis had begun nesting in the new habitat.

The cove continues to provide mangrove nesting habitat for up to 2000 pairs of nesting birds, while the barren uplands behind are used by nesting gulls, terns, and skimmers. The cove also features a diversity of habitats not fully anticipated at the time the project was planned. Mussel bars have formed under the mangroves. Two small creeks and a shifting salt barren testify to the dynamic forces still at work, and provide important fishery values. Fringing Spartina patches offer marsh habitats for small mullet and killifish, and are heavily used by marsh snails (Littorina sp.). A sand bar at the southeastern margin of the cove is an important roost site for a wide variety of resident, migrant and wintering bird species. Large numbers of diamond-backed terrapins use the cove, and its shorelines provide excellent redfishing for a few local guides. We consider this an excellent example of a coastal habitat creation project, with outstanding ecological benefits.

Erosion continues at Alafia Bank, along the major east-west shorelines and especially at the northwest and southwest corners of the Extension. Accretion does occur at some sites, but it does not equal the losses due to erosion. Since I have been here (13 years), shoreline recession has resulted in the loss of significant amounts of nesting habitat. Both routine annual forces and major storm events cause the damage. In the severe March 13 storm, for example, up to 40 feet of shoreline recession was measured at permanent transects. Continuing erosion threatens the long-term suitability of Alafia Bank as a colony site.

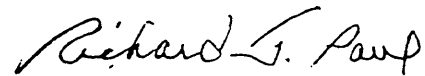
We believe that the only feasible way to counter these habitat losses is to periodically add material to the island. Construction-grade material is not often available, so opportunities are few. Two such opportunities appear to exist now: the proposed deepening of the Alafia channel, and the deepening/widening of the Big Bend

channel. I believe that these may be the last opportunities to obtain construction-grade material for the next 40-50 years, since it is unlikely that new channels will be dredged in Hillsborough Bay nor that existing channels will again be deepened.

As the manager of the sanctuary, I must look to the future security of the site. Without construction-grade material available in the future, and with erosion a continuing force, I believe it is very important to obtain material now to ensure the long-term availability of nesting habitat. I have discussed our needs with Bill Fonferek of the Corps of Engineers, Gray Gordon and Dean Kleinschmidt of Cargill Fertilizer, and Bruce Birnhak of your office, and look forward to continuing those discussions to ensure that any proposed project design offers the maximum ecological benefit possible, and a future for this outstanding colony.

I invite your support of the beneficial use of dredge material at Alafia Bank.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being more prominent.

Richard T. Paul
Manager

cc: Bruce Birnhak
Frank Dunstan, NAS
Bill Fonferek, COE
Gray Gordon, Cargill Fertilizer

EXHIBIT III

AGENCY COORDINATION

Planning Division
Environmental Resources Branch

TO ADDRESSES LISTED

The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is beginning to gather information to help define issues and concerns that will be addressed in a Study of Navigation Improvements to the Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida.

The Big Bend Channel connects a multiowner Industrial Port Complex with the Hillsborough Bay ship channel. It is about 2.2 miles long, 35 feet deep at mean low water and 200 feet wide with a turning basin 1,000 feet long by 700 to 1500 feet wide. The Corps of Engineers will examine the feasibility of maintenance dredging the existing channel with placement of the dredged material on disposal island 3D. The feasibility of widening and deepening Big Bend Channel, with dredged material disposal on uplands and/or disposal islands, will also be examined.

We welcome your views, comments and information about resources, study objectives and important features within the described study area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comments or inquiry should be addressed to the attention of Planning Division, Environmental Studies Section and received in this office by December 20, 1990.

Sincerely,

Mann G. Davis III
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

3 LANG/CESAJ-PD-ES/3691

2 WL/10/15/90/RKD

QND ATMAR/CESAJ-PD-ES

MAZER/CESAJ-PD-ER

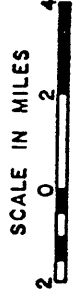
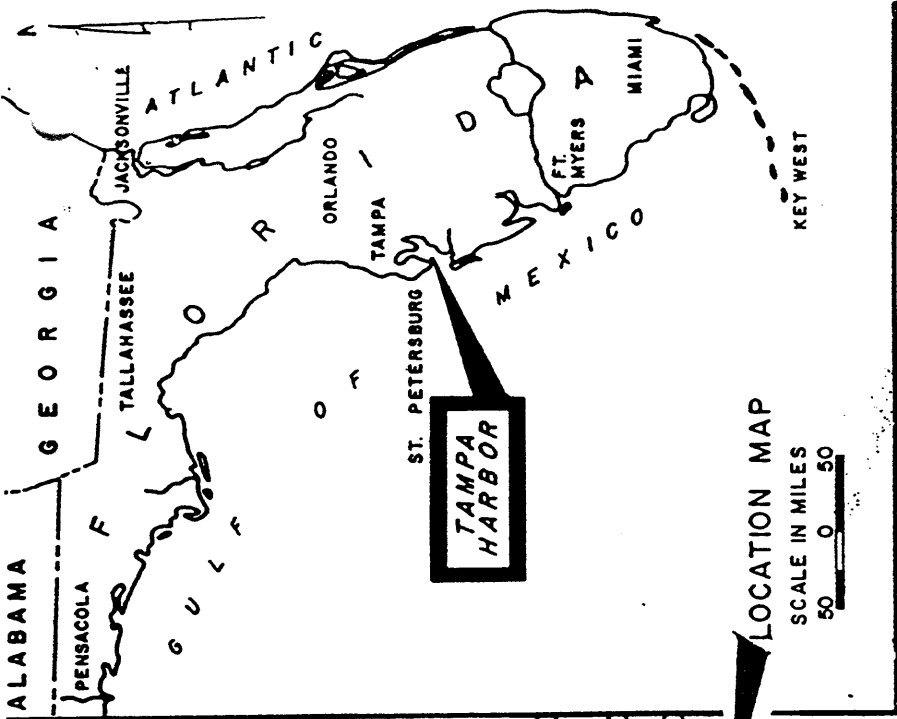
SMITH/CESAJ-PD-E

BAILEY/CESAJ-PD-N

STRAIN/CESAJ-PD-P

DAVIS/CESAJ-PD-A

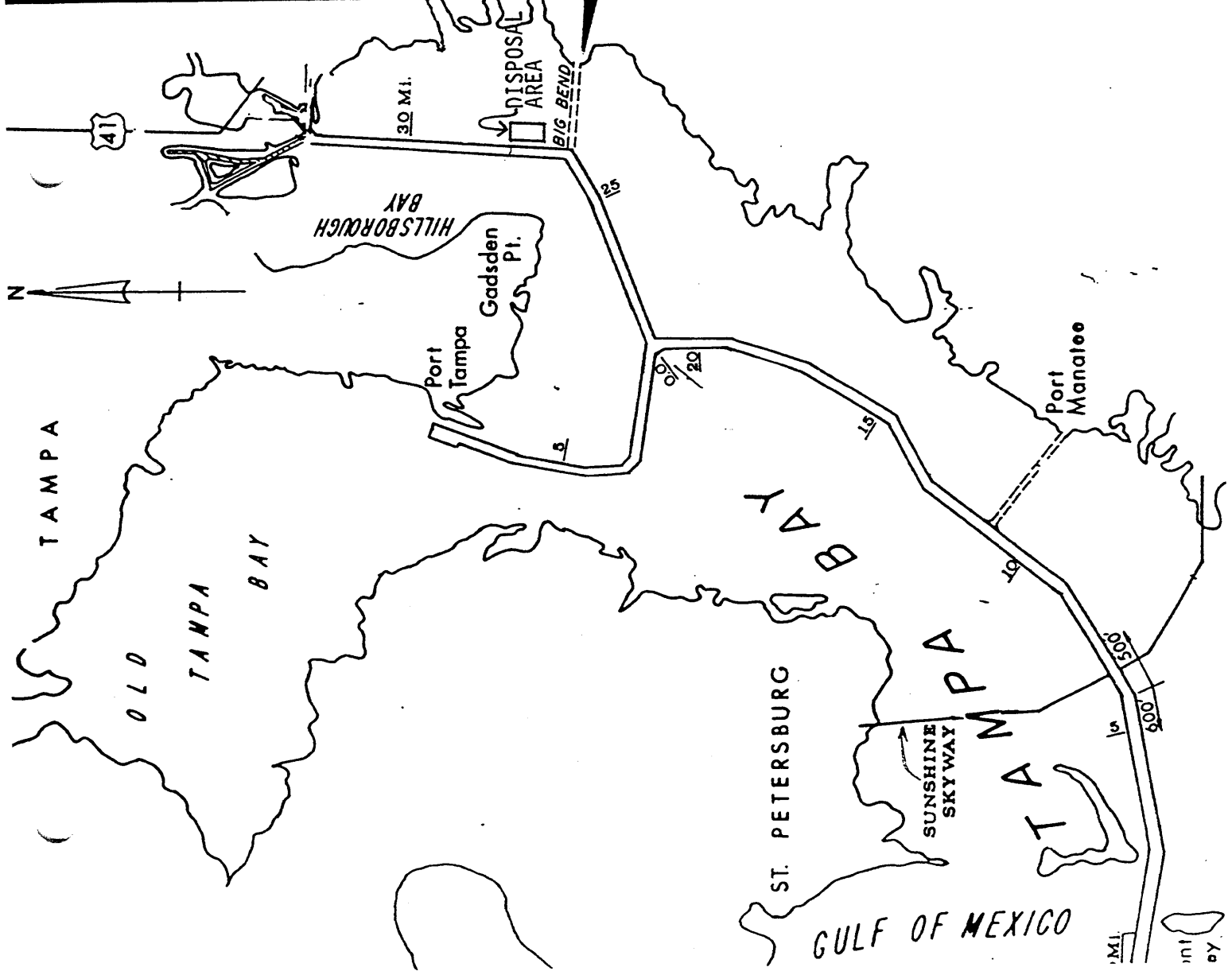
SALEM/CESAJ-PD



**TAMPA HARBOR,
BIG BEND CHANNEL, FLORIDA
LOCATION MAP**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

FIGURE



NATIONAL

Director
Office of Federal Activities
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW (A-104)
Washington, DC 20460 (5 cys)

Director
Department of Commerce
NOAA/CS/EC/Room 6222
14th and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230 (4cys)

Director
Office of Environmental Compliance
Department of Energy, RM 4G064
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585 (2cys)

Mr. Gregg Chappell
Federal Emergency Mgt. Admin.
Room 714
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Mr. Bruce Blanchard, Director
Office of Envir. Project Review
Dept. of the Interior, RM 4241
18th and C Street
Washington, DC 20240 (12cys)

Chief
Environmental Impacts Branch
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New York, NY 10278-0001

Dr. Kenneth Holt
Office of the Director
Center for Environmental Health
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1600 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30333 (2cys)

Mr. Gregg Chappell
Federal Emergency Mgmt. Admin.
Room 714
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Washington, DC 20472

Mr. Bruce Blanchard, Director
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Chief
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South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
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State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning & Budgeting
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol (16 cys)
Tallahassee, FL 32301-8074

Florida Wildlife Federation
PO Box 6870
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870

Mr. George W. Percy, Director
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer
R.A. Gray Building
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Tallahassee, FL 32399

Field Supervisor
Jacksonville Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3100 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Dr. Elaine Harrington
Florida Chapter
Sierra Club
927 Delores Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2929

Florida Defenders of the Environment
1523 NW 4th Street
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State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
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Gainesville, FL 32601-6816

Regional Environmental Officer
Housing & Urban Development
Room 600-C
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Atlanta, GA 30303-3309 (2cys)

Commander (OAN)
Seventh Coast Guard District
909 SE 1st Avenue
Bricknell Plaza Federal Bldg.
Miami, FL 33131-3050

Mr. Heinz Mueller
Environmental Policy Section
EPA, Region IV
345 Courtland St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30365-2401 (5cys)

Regional Director
Insurance & Mitigation Division
FEMA
1371 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

Mr. Earl J. Tullos
State Topographic Bureau, DOT
605 Suwannee Street
Mail Stop 56
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Professor John Gifford
Department of Anthropology
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL 33124

State Director
ASCS
US Dept. of Agriculture
PO Drawer 670
Gainesville, FL 32602-0670

Southern Region Forester
US Forest Service
Dept. of Agriculture
1720 Peachtree Rd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-2405

National Marine Fisheries Service
Environmental Assessment Branch
3500 Delwood Beach Rd
Panama City, FL 32407-7499

National Marine Fisheries Service
Chief, Protected Species
Management Branch
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2496

National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of the Regional Director
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2496

Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

Mr. Justin Gillis
Miami Herald
5555 Hollywood
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Hollywood, FL 33021-6496

Wilderness Society
4055 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
of Florida
PO Box 440021
Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144

SAI: FL9011270620

PROJECT: STUDY OF NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BIG BEND C
CHANNEL IN TAMPA BAY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

RECEIVED: 11/27/90

under its intergovernmental coordination and review process. This correspondence has been assigned a State Application Identifier (SAI) Number, shown above, which should be used in all communications with this office concerning the application or project.

The State Clearinghouse will coordinate a review of the application or project pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372; Gubernatorial Executive Order Number 83-150; section 216.212, Florida Statutes; the National Environmental Policy Act; the Florida approved coastal management program; the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and other federal or informational review requirements.

The review begins on the date the correspondence is received by the State Clearinghouse and normally is completed in 30 days, although longer review periods of 45 and 60 days are permitted by federal law for specific types of applications or projects. Completion of the review may be delayed if additional information is needed by reviewing agencies, in which case you will be notified. Please send three (3) copies of your application or project to the appropriate Regional Planning Council (RPC), if applicable.

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Executive Office of the Governor/OPB
Growth Management and Planning Policy Unit
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
(904) 488-8114; (SunCom) 278-8114



LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

January 28, 1991

Mr. Eddie Salem
Acting Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District,
Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Study of Navigation Improvements to the Big Bend Channel in
Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida

SAI: FL9011270620C

Dear Mr. Salem:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 83-150, the Coastal Zone Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, has coordinated a review of the above referenced project.

Pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, the project will be in accord with State plans, programs, procedures and objectives when consideration is given to and action taken on the enclosed comments and requirements of our reviewing agencies.

Please review the enclosed letters from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Department of Environmental Regulation (DER), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFWFC). Subsequent reviews of this project will focus on the issues identified by state agencies.

The federal agency did not provide a federal consistency determination for this project in accordance with 15 CFR 930, subpart C. However, the State has completed a review of the project information available at this time. Based on this information, the project at this stage is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. Although the State does not object to the proposed work, we have identified several issues which must be resolved as the project progresses through later stages of planning, design and funding. As required by 15 CFR 930.34 and .37, at each major point of decision-making the federal agency is required to submit a consistency determination

Mr. Eddie Salem
Page Two

for the State's review. The format and content of the determination are described in 15 CFR 930.34 - .39. The State's continued agreement with this project will be based, in part, on adequate reconciliation of previously identified concerns.

This letter reflects your compliance with Presidential Executive Order 12372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Estus Whitfield", written over the typed name.

Estus D. Whitfield, Deputy Director
State Clearinghouse

EDW/rt

Enclosure(s)

cc: Department of Community Affairs
Department of Environmental Regulation
Department of Natural Resources
Department of State
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Ted Hoehn - Department of Environmental Regulation



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

2740 CENTERVIEW DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399

BOB MARTINEZ
Governor

THOMAS G. PELHAM
Secretary

RECEIVED

JAN 7 1991

MEMORANDUM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

TO: Director, State Clearinghouse

FROM: Thomas G. Pelham, Secretary *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Proposed Study of Navigation Improvements to the Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay, SAI #FL9011270620C

DATE: January 2, 1991

=====

The following comments are provided in response to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) request for input on the proposed Study of Navigation Improvements to the Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida.

The proposed study, which will evaluate the feasibility of the COE accepting maintenance responsibility for the existing Big Bend Channel and expanding the channel beyond its current design dimensions, should consider the relevant deepwater port master plan and local government comprehensive plans prepared according to the statewide planning requirements of Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes (F.S.). As one of Florida's 12 designated deepwater ports, the Port of Tampa is required to prepare a master plan in accordance with the provisions of Section 163.3178(2)(c), F.S. The port master plan includes plans for future in-water maintenance and expansion and goals, objectives, and policies covering a variety of coastal management issues. The port plan must be incorporated into the Coastal Management Element of the appropriate local government comprehensive plan, which, in this case, is Hillsborough County. The Hillsborough County Plan also includes various goals, objectives, and policies covering coastal issues. Consideration should be given to the relevant provisions of these approved plans to avoid conflicts with study recommendations.

MEMORANDUM

January 2, 1991

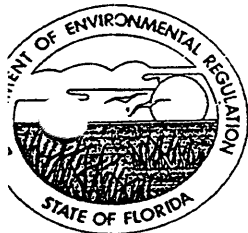
Page Two

The Department also recommends the study contain a thorough evaluation of project costs to local sponsors. Assuming maintenance responsibility for this existing private channel suggests there may be additional financial obligations for local sponsors (i.e., the port authority or local government). These costs must be accurately projected so local sponsors can determine if the project is financially feasible.

There are also a number of potential environmental impacts related to dredging and spoil disposal in the Big Bend area of Tampa Bay including temporary and long term impacts to water quality, submerged and terrestrial habitats, and endangered species. In addition to the Port of Tampa master plan and the Hillsborough County comprehensive plan there are other resource protection plans for Tampa Bay being prepared under the state's Surface Water Improvement and Management Program and the federal National Estuary Program. While the approach taken under these various planning efforts may vary, they do share similar goals for protecting marine resources and natural systems in Tampa Bay. Conventional approaches used elsewhere or in the past, may no longer be appropriate if they conflict with these adopted plans. Innovative alternatives may be needed to achieve compatibility and further the integrated planning strategy Florida has instituted and we encourage exploring such considerations as part of the proposed study.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Keith McCarron at (904) 922-5438.

TGP/kmw



Florida Department of Environmental Regulation

Twin Towers Office Bldg. • 2600 Blair Stone Road • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Bob Martinez, Governor

Dale Twachmann, Secretary

John Shearer, Assistant Secretary

RECEIVED

JAN 17 1991

STATE CLEARING HOUSE
JAN 17 1991

Mr. Don Henningsen, Senior Government Analyst
Intergovernmental Coordination
Office of the Governor
413 Carlton Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Mr. Henningsen:

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Preliminary Study of
Navigation Improvements to Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay
SAI No: FL9011270620C

The Department of Environmental Regulation has reviewed the referenced study and has the following suggestions and comments. We have no objections to the maintenance dredging of the channel or placement of dredged materials on disposal islands such as Island 3D. To allow continued use of the disposal island sites in the area the Corps of Engineers should continue to work closely with the Tampa Port Authority to ensure the site's longevity through proper handling of sediments during their deposition and reuse of dewatered material.

Mapping of seagrass and seagrass regeneration in the affected area should be accomplished to aid in the protection of these valuable resource. Precautions and various dredging methodologies should be considered to protect any seagrass beds in the project area. When dredging is complete, consideration should be given to revegetating the island's shorelines to decrease erosion and improve wildlife habitat. Many of these disposal island sites have become bird rookeries and reestablishment of similar habitats should be attempted.

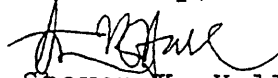
Data should be collected documenting existing conditions in the project site. Sediments should be tested for the presence of metals such as Al, Cd, Hg, Cu, Zn, P, Cr and any other harmful metals suspected to be present. Sediments should also be tested for levels of nutrient and pesticides. Boring logs should be presented showing all layers to be penetrated along with their grain size distribution.



Mr. Don Henningsen
SAI No: FL9011270620C
January 17, 1991
Page 2

Early consideration of these issues will improve the quality of this project and minimize its impacts on the bay system. Preapplication coordination with our Bureau of Wetlands Resource Management is recommended. Pursuant to 15 CFR 930, subpart C, the Corps is required to evaluate the consistency of this project with the Florida Coastal Management Program and submit its determination to the state. A consistency determination should be provided at each decision point and accompany each planning and environmental document prepared for this project. If you should have any questions please call Stephen Brooker at 904/ 488-0130.

Sincerely,



Steven K. Hall
Agency Assistance Coordinator
Division of Water Management

SKH/tsb
cc: Rick Garrity



Tom Gardner, Executive Director

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Lawton Chiles
Governor
Jim Smith
Secretary of State
Bob Butterworth
Attorney General
Gerald Lewis
State Comptroller
Tom Gallagher
State Treasurer
Bob Crawford
Commissioner of Agriculture
Betty Castor
Commissioner of Education

January 28, 1991

Mr. Estus Whitfield
Office of Planning and Budgeting
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Mr. Whitfield:

SAI No. FL9001127062C, USACE-Jacksonville District
Study of Navigation Improvements, Big Bend Channel
Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County

The Department has reviewed the above referenced document. The only comments we have were related to the protection of manatees. We have supplied those comments directly to the Corps of Engineers and have enclosed a copy for your reference. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David W. Arnold'.

David W. Arnold
Senior Management Analyst

Enclosure

RECEIVED

JAN 29 1991

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



BOB MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

RECEIVED
DEC 4 1990

Div. of Resource Mgmt.
Dept. of Natural Resources

Date: DEC 03 1990

Comment Due Date: DEC 17 1990

SAI#: FL9011 27 06 20 C

TO: Department of Natural Resources
FROM: State Clearinghouse
SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Coordination (formerly A-95) Federal
Consistency Project Review Process

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JAN 29 1991

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

The attached Notification of Intent to Apply for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424 Application) or other federally required document (e.g., Environmental Impact Statement, Fishery Management Plan, Consistency Determination, etc.) is forwarded to your agency for review and comment in accordance with:

- ☒ Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process (IC&RP), pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Governor's Executive Order 83-150.
- ☒ Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 and Federal Regulations (15 CFR 930) requiring an evaluation of the document for consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP).
- ☐ Other

If the document requires a CZMA/FCMP consistency evaluation, it is categorized as one of the following:

- ☐ Federal Assistance to State or Local Governments (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). State agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- ☒ Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- ☐ Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- ☐ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Your review and comments for State Clearinghouse projects should address themselves to the extent to which the project is in accord with or contributes to the fulfillment of your agency's plans or the achievement of your projects, programs and objectives.

DITC 10 412000



Tom Gardner, Executive Director

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

January 11, 1991

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Lawton Chiles
GovernorJim Smith
Secretary of StateBob Butterworth
Attorney GeneralGerald Lewis
State ComptrollerTom Gallagher
State TreasurerBob Crawford
Commissioner of AgricultureBetty Castor
Commissioner of Education

Mann G. Davis III
Acting Chief, Planning Division
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

JAN 11 1991

DEPUTY ASSISTANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR PLANNING

RE: Feasibility Study of Big Bend Channel, Tampa Bay
SAI No. FL90011270620C

Dear Mr. Davis:

The intent of this letter is to address the Corps' request for information to help define issues and concerns that will be addressed in their Study of Navigation Improvements to the Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida.

The Division of Marine Resources has concerns about the proposed project with respect to its possible effects on the endangered West Indian Manatee, Trichechus manatus latirostris. Aerial surveys, sighting reports and mortality data all show that the endangered West Indian Manatee regularly occurs throughout Tampa Bay.

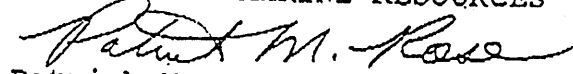
Manatee distribution in Tampa Bay during the year is variable. They congregate during the months of November through March near the Tampa Electric Company's (TECO) Big Bend generating plant at Apollo Beach on the east side of the bay and the Florida Power Corporation's Bartow power plant at Weedon Island on the west side of the bay. During cold periods more than 100 manatees, a significant percentage of the west coast manatee population, have been observed at the warm water discharges of the power plants. During the fall and warmer periods of the winter, manatees travel between the power plants and utilize the extensive feeding habitats nearby. From TECO Big Bend plant manatees move north to the Alafia River and south to the Manatee River. From Bartow power plant, the manatees utilize the extensive grassbeds in Old Tampa Bay. During cold snaps, the animals move back into the warm water refugia of the power plants. Manatees will disperse throughout Tampa Bay during the warmer periods of the year.

Mann G. Davis
Page 2
January 11, 1991

To reduce possible impacts to manatees, we recommend that standard manatee protection construction conditions be used. Further, the dredging of the Big Bend Channel should not be done from November 15 through March 31 and we strongly suggest the dredging take place between June 1 and August 31.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF MARINE RESOURCES



Patrick M. Rose
Environmental Administrator

PMR/wbb

cc: Pam McVety
Charles Futch
David Arnold
Bob Turner, USFWS
29BIGBEND.DR

For projects circulated for evaluation of consistency with the FCMP, the process is slightly different. An additional review is not necessary as your plans, policies and objectives are, in large part, mandated by appropriate Florida statutory authority. However, for consistency review purposes, it is suggested that your comments in response to the attached document be expressed as follows.

Based on an analysis of the mandatory enforceable provisions and recommended policies of the core FCMP statutes and implementing rules which your agency administers, the proposed activity is:

• Consistent

- Not Consistent. Objections to an activity must describe how the proposed project is inconsistent with the specific provisions included in the FCMP and alternatives if any, which if adopted, would allow the activity to be consistent.
- Not consistent due to failure to provide sufficient information to assess the consistency of the activity. Objections or findings of inconsistency based on insufficient information must describe the nature of information is necessary to determine consistency.

Should you need additional information from the applicant for IC&RP purposes or to evaluate the consistency of the project with the FCMP, please contact the applicant for the required information and notify this office by the due date. The State Clearinghouse will promptly inform the applicant that a project review cannot be completed until such information is provided to reviewers. Should a conference be necessary, please contact this office as soon as possible. Timely response is essential in order to preserve the state's rights in both IC&RP and CZMA Consistency proceedings.

Please check the appropriate box below, provide any comments on your agency's stationery and return to the State Clearinghouse by the due date. In both telephone conversation and written correspondence, please refer to the State Application Identifier (SAI) number.

Enclosure

E.O. 12372

FEDERAL
CONSISTENCY

TO: Director
State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Budgeting
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
(904) 488-8114

☐ NO COMMENT

☒ COMMENTS
ATTACHED

☒ CONSISTENT
(COMMENTS ATTACHED)

☐ NOT CONSISTENT
(COMMENTS ATTACHED)

FROM: DNR

SAI#: FL9011 27 0620 C

DIVISION/BUREAU: Exec office

REVIEWER: David W. Arnold

DATE: 1-28-91

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JAN 29 1991

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jim Smith
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R.A. Gray Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
(904) 488-1480

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DEC 18 1990

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

December 12, 1990

Ms. Karen K. MacFarland, Director
State Planning and Development
Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Budgeting
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

In Reply Refer To:
Laura A. Kammerer
Historic Sites
Specialist
(904) 487-2333
Project File No. 903536

RE: Cultural Resource Assessment Request
SAI# FL9011270620C
Department of the Army - Corps of Engineers
Study of Navigation Improvements
Big Bend Channel in Tampa Bay
Hillsborough County, Florida

Dear Ms. MacFarland:

In accordance with the procedures contained in 36 C.F.R., Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties"), we have reviewed the above referenced project for possible impact to archaeological and historical sites or properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. The authority for this procedure is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), as amended.

A review of the Florida Master Site File indicates that no significant archaeological or historical sites are recorded for or considered likely to be present within the project area. Furthermore, it is the opinion of this agency that because of the project location and/or nature it is considered unlikely that any such sites will be affected. Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed project will have no effect on any sites listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register. project may proceed without further involvement with this agency.

Ms. Karen K. MacFarland, Director
December 12, 1990
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your interest in protecting Florida's archaeological and historic resources is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Suzanne P. Walker

for

George W. Percy, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

GWP/lak

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILLIAM G. BOSTICK, JR.
Winter Haven

DON WRIGHT
Orlando

THOMAS L. HIRSH, SR.
Lake Wales

MRS. GILBERT W. HUMPHREY
Miccosukee

JOE MARLIN HILLIARD
Clewiston

ROBERT M. BRANTLY, Executive Director
ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director



FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
(904) 488-1960

December 20, 1990

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Ms. Karen MacFarland, Director
Florida State Clearinghouse
Executive Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Budgeting
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: SAI #FL9011270620C,
Hillsborough County, Big Bend
Channel Dredging, USACE

Dear Ms. MacFarland:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has reviewed the referenced document, and offers the following comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is proposing to maintenance dredge an existing private channel, known as the Big Bend Channel. Currently, the channel is 2.2 miles long, 35 feet deep at mean low water, and 200 feet wide, with a turning basin 1,000 feet long by 700 to 1,500 feet wide. The spoil material would be placed on disposal island 3D. The COE is also examining widening and deepening the Big Bend Channel to an unspecified extent.

Our biologist reviewed the project and spoil sites on December 17, 1990. There are several environmental concerns associated with the proposed project. Spoil island 3D is a nationally significant colonial nesting bird rookery for least terns (threatened), black skimmers, American oystercatchers (species of special concern - SSC), 20,000 to 40,000 pairs of laughing gulls, royal terns, sandwich terns, and the only Florida colony of Caspian terns. The island is also a documented feeding area for reddish egret (SSC), snowy egret (SSC), little blue heron (SSC), black-necked stilt, and American oystercatcher (SSC).

The existing channel is flanked by extensive shoals, some of which were created by past dredge spoil disposal. Seagrass beds are present in the areas surrounding the existing turning basin and the channel near the turning basin.